

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/887,394	GONG, YIFAN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Donald L. Storm	2654	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to AMENDMENT filed May 12, 2005.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 5.
3. The drawings filed on 22 June 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____.	7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment
4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material	8. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
	9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to the Applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR § 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Robert L. Troike, Attorney of Record, on July 19, 2005.

IN THE CLAIMS:

In claim 1, line consisting of *set of transformations-adaptation speech data from a new environment*, change "new environment" to --new acoustic environment--.

In claim 5, line beginning *in accordance with*, change "new alignment" to --realignment--.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1 and 5 are allowed. The claims have been renumbered for printing to be claims 1 and 2.

Response to Arguments

3. The prior Office action, mailed February 10, 2005, objects to the specification and claims, and rejects claims under 35 USC § 112, § 102, and § 103, citing Gong and Godfrey alone and with others. The Applicant's arguments and changes in AMENDMENT, filed May 12, 2005, have been fully considered with the following results.

4. The substitute specification (received May 12, 2005) is present and is now the specification of record.

5. With respect to objection to the specification, the changes entered by substitute specification define terminology appropriately. Accordingly, the objection is removed.
6. With respect to objection to those claims needing interpretation or clarification, the changes entered by amendment provide clear descriptions of the claimed subject matter of the remaining claims. Accordingly, the objection is removed.
7. With respect to rejections of claims under 35 USC § 112, the rejections no longer apply because the claims have been canceled.
8. With respect to rejection of claims under 35 USC § 102 and § 103, citing Gong and Godfrey alone and in combination, the changes entered by amendment include merging a local set of linear transforms generated by EM estimation with a set of prior global transforms and adapting models using the transforms that resulted from the merge.

The reference Gong and Godfrey does not explicitly describe that limitation. The whole structure and interaction expressed by the combination of all limitations is not made obvious compared to the prior art of record for the whole invention of the claims, particularly with iterative EM estimation. Accordingly, the rejections are removed. The Applicant's assertions with respect to the references have been considered, but they are moot in view of the new claim elements.

Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donald L. Storm, of Art Unit 2654, whose telephone number is (571) 272-7614. The examiner can normally be reached on weekdays between 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM Eastern Time. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil can be reached on (571) 272-7602.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Inquiries regarding the status of submissions relating to an application or questions on the Private PAIR system should be directed to the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or 703-305-3028 between the hours of 6 a.m. and midnight Monday through Friday EST, or by e-mail at: ebc@uspto.gov. For general information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>.

Donald L. Storm
Donald L. Storm
July 20, 2005

Richemond Dorvil
RICHEMOND DORVIL
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER